55. (Amended) A method for providing data from one or more information systems to a user telephone, comprising the steps of:

converting speech from the user telephone to commands;

determining the information system to be accessed;

converting the text to commands recognizable by the information system;

forwarding the converted commands to the information system;

receiving data from the information system;

detecting the form of the data from the information system;

converting non-speech data from the information system into speech;

forwarding the speech data to the user telephone;

storing information relating to the current state of the system;

detecting the language in which the commands from the user telephone are received;

detecting the language of the data received from the information system; and

converting the data from the information system into the language in which commands from the user telephone are received.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein detecting the language of the data received from the information system further comprises detecting more than one language within a single piece of data.

REMARKS

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment. Assuming the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) will be in accordance with the written opinion, the IPER will state that the criteria of novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and industrial applicability, as defined in PCT Article 33(1) to (4), have been satisfied for all claims presented by way of this preliminary amendment. The claims for which the written opinion indicated the criteria were not met were cancelled without prejudice. Claims 5 and 49 have been amended to correct formalities discussed in the written opinion. Claims 47, 52 and 54-55 have been converted to independent form.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7-23-01

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 1-4, 41-46, 51, 53 and 57-60 have been cancelled.

Claims 5, 47, 49, 52 and 54-55 have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A universal interface for accessing one or more information systems from a user telephone, the universal interface comprising:

an input converter for converting input from the user telephone to commands;

an interface control module coupled to the input converter for receiving the commands from the input converter; determining one of the information systems to be accessed; converting the commands to commands recognizable by the information system; forwarding the converted commands to the information system; receiving data from the information system; detecting the form of the data from the information system; and storing information relating to a current state of the system;

a speech-to-text routing switch coupled to the interface control module for receiving data from the information system and control data from the interface control module;

a speech-to-command converter coupled to the interface control module for converting speech to commands, wherein the speech-to-command converter is coupled to the speech-to-[command] text routing switch to receive speech and to forward commands to the interface control module;

an output switch coupled to the interface control module and the speech-to-text routing switch for receiving speech from the speech-to-text routing switch for receiving a control input from the interface control module, and for forwarding speech from the speech-to-text routing switch to the user telephone; and

a text-to-speech converter coupled to the output switch for receiving text from the interface control module, converting the text to speech, and forwarding the speech to the output switch to deliver speech to the user telephone.

47. (Amended) [The method of claim 41, further]A method for providing data from one or more information systems to a user telephone, comprising the steps of:

converting speech from the user telephone to text;

determining the information system to be accessed;

converting the text to commands recognizable by the information system;

forwarding the converted commands to the information system;

receiving data from the information system;

detecting the form of the data from the information system;

converting non-speech data from the information system into speech;

forwarding the speech data to the user telephone;

storing information relating to the current state of the system; and

integrating and synchronizing (i) a database of a personal information manager, (ii) a database of a personal digital assistant, and (iii) a database residing in a universal interface, by:

receiving data from the personal digital assistant;

receiving data from the universal interface;

detecting a synchronization event, wherein the event is triggered by a request for synchronization of the database of the personal digital assistant with the database of a personal information manager;

transmitting data, via an electronic mail system, to the interface control module; and

updating the data in each of the databases to reflect the most recent data entered into any one database.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 4[1]8, further comprising sending the data from the information system to the universal interface over the Internet.

52. (Amended) [The method of claim 41,]A method for providing data from one or more information systems to a user telephone, comprising the steps of:

converting speech from the user telephone to commands;

determining the information system to be accessed;

converting the text to commands recognizable by the information system;

forwarding the converted commands to the information system;

receiving data from the information system;

detecting the form of the data from the information system;

converting non-speech data from the information system into speech;

forwarding the speech data to the user telephone; and

storing information relating to the current state of the system, wherein storing information relating to the current state of the system further comprises the steps of determining:

whether the voice commands are being received from a user telephone;

the information system to be accessed;

whether the voice commands, after being converted to text, have been converted into commands recognizable by the information system;

whether the converted commands have been forwarded to the information system;

whether data has been received from the information system;

whether data from the information system is speech or text;

the state of the speech-to-text routing switch; and

the state of the output switch.

54. (Amended) [The method of claim 41, further]A method for providing data from one or more information systems to a user telephone, comprising the steps of:

converting speech from the user telephone to commands;

determining the information system to be accessed;

converting the text to commands recognizable by the information system;

forwarding the converted commands to the information system;

receiving data from the information system;

detecting the form of the data from the information system;

converting non-speech data from the information system into speech;

forwarding the speech data to the user telephone;

storing information relating to the current state of the system;

receiving a command from the user telephone signaling that the user telephone has received unintelligible words;

ceasing communication to the user telephone;

restarting communication to the user telephone at a point a specified number of words back from the point at which the communication ceased;

forwarding the first specified number of words by spelling the words out; and

continuing to forward the remainder of the data.

55. (Amended) [The method of claim 41, further]A method for providing data from one or more information systems to a user telephone, comprising the steps of:

converting speech from the user telephone to commands;

determining the information system to be accessed;

converting the text to commands recognizable by the information system;

forwarding the converted commands to the information system;

receiving data from the information system;

detecting the form of the data from the information system;

converting non-speech data from the information system into speech;

forwarding the speech data to the user telephone;

storing information relating to the current state of the system;

detecting the language in which the commands from the user telephone are received;

detecting the language of the data received from the information system; and

converting the data from the information system into the language in which commands from the user telephone are received.